

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1        1. A method of facilitating access to documents, comprising:
  - 2                assigning a first document tag to a document; and
  - 3                automatically determining an associated tag for the document based on the first document tag.
- 1        2. The method of claim 1, wherein the document comprises content to be provided to a content reader via a communication network.
- 1        3. The method of claim 2, wherein the content comprises at least one of: (i) text information, (ii) image information, (iii) audio information, and (iv) executable information.
- 1        4. The method of claim 2, wherein the communication network comprises at least one of: (i) the Internet, (ii) an intranet, (iii) a public network, (iv) a public switched telephone network, (v) a proprietary network, (v) a wireless network, and (vi) a local area network.
- 1        5. The method of claim 2, wherein the content comprises at least one of: (i) financial information, (ii) financial news, (iii) information about financial events, (iv) investment information, and (v) market information.
- 1        6. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one tag is associated with at least one tag domain.

1           7. The method of claim 6, wherein at least one tag domain comprises a single-  
2 rooted, hierarchical data structure.

1           8. The method of claim 6, wherein at least one tag domain comprises a multi-  
2 level domain, and at least one domain level comprises a plurality of tags.

1           9. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one tag is associated with at least one  
2 of: (i) an author, (ii) a date, and (iii) an information type.

1           10. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one tag is associated with at least one  
2 of: (i) a sector, (ii) an industry, (iii) a research type, (iv) a company, (v) an issuer, (vi) a  
3 region, (vii) a country, (viii) an investment product, (ix) a security instrument, (x) a third-  
4 party rating, (xi) a research analyst, (xii) a strategist, (xiii) an event type, (xiv) a subject,  
5 (xv) an investment style, (xvi) a market cap, (xvii) a document type, (xviii) an  
6 information value, and (xix) a currency.

1           11. The method of claim 1, wherein said assigning is manually performed by at  
2 least one of: (i) a content publisher, and (ii) a tag assignor.

1           12. The method of claim 1, wherein the document comprises content to be  
2 provided to a content reader, and said assigning is automatically performed based on the  
3 content.

1           13. The method of claim 1, wherein the first document tag comprises at least one  
2 of: (i) a primary tag, and (ii) a secondary tag.

1           14. The method of claim 1, wherein a plurality of document tags are assigned to  
2       the document.

1           15. The method of claim 1, wherein said determining comprises:  
2           determining the associated tag in accordance with a pre-determined tag  
3       association.

1           16. The method of claim 15, wherein the pre-determined tag association is  
2       associated with at least one of: (i) a start date, (ii) an end date, (iii) antecedent tags, (iv)  
3       descendant tags, and (v) sibling tags.

1           17. The method of claim 15, further comprising:  
2           automatically generating the pre-determined tag association.

1           18. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2           assigning a second document tag to the document based on the associated tag.

1           19. The method of claim 1, wherein said assigning of the second document tag  
2       comprises:  
3           transmitting an indication of the associated tag to a content publisher;  
4           receiving an indication from the content publisher; and  
5           assigning a second document tag to the document based on the associated tag and  
6       the received indication.

1       20. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2           receiving the document from a content publisher.

1       21. The method of claim 20, wherein documents are received from a plurality of  
2           content publishers.

1       22. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2           retrieving the document in accordance with at least one of: (i) the first document  
3           tag, and (ii) a second document tag.

1       23. The method of claim 22, wherein the document is retrieved further in  
2           accordance with at least one of: (i) a reader tag, (ii) a request tag, and (iii) an entitlement  
3           tag.

1       24. The method of claim 22, further comprising:  
2           transmitting the retrieved document to a content reader via a communication  
3           network.

1       25. The method of claim 24, wherein said transmitting is performed via at least  
2           one of: (i) a content controller, (ii) a content reader, (iii) a personal computer, (iv) a  
3           server, (v) a portable computing device, (vi) a telephone, (vii) a Web site, and (viii) an  
4           electronic mail message.

1       26. A computer-implemented method of facilitating access to investment  
2           research documents, comprising:  
3           receiving an investment research document from a content publisher;

4 receiving an indication of a first document tag from the content publisher,  
5 wherein the first document tag is associated with a single-rooted, hierarchical data  
6 structure;

7 automatically determining an associated tag for the document based on the first  
8 document tag;

9 transmitting an indication of the associated tag to the content publisher;  
10 receiving an indication from the content publisher;

11 assigning a second document tag to the investment research document based on  
12 the associated tag and the received indication;

13 retrieving the investment research document in accordance with the second  
14 document tag and at least one of: (i) a reader tag, (ii) a request tag, and (iii) an entitlement  
15 tag; and

16 transmitting the retrieved investment research document to a content reader via a  
17 communication network.

1 27. An apparatus, comprising:

2 a processor; and

3 a storage device in communication with said processor and storing instructions  
4 adapted to be executed by said processor to:

5 assign a first document tag to a document, and

6 automatically determine an associated tag for the document based on the  
7 first document tag.

1 28. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said storage device further stores at least  
2 one of: (i) a tag database, (ii) a document database, and (iii) a tag association database.

1        29. The apparatus of claim 27, further comprising:  
2            a communication device coupled to said processor and adapted to communicate  
3        with at least one of: (i) a content publisher, (ii) a document storage device, (iii) a content  
4        controller, (iv) a content reader, and (v) a payment service.

1        30. A medium storing instructions adapted to be executed by a processor to  
2        perform a method of facilitating access to documents, said method comprising:  
3            assigning a first document tag to a document; and  
4            automatically determining an associated tag for the document based on the first  
5        document tag.

1        31. A method of facilitating access to documents, comprising:  
2            creating a document;  
3            transmitting the document to a content controller along with an indication of a  
4        first document tag;  
5            receiving an associated tag from the content controller; and  
6            transmitting to the content controller an indication of whether or not a second  
7        document tag should be assigned to the document based on the associated tag.

1        32. A method of facilitating access to documents, comprising:  
2            receiving a pre-determined tag association;  
3            retrieving a first document tag for a document; and  
4            determining an associated tag for the document based on the pre-determined tag  
5        association and the first document tag.

1           33. The method of claim 32, wherein said retrieving and determining are  
2   performed for a plurality of legacy documents.

1           34. The method of claim 32, wherein said retrieving the first document tag is  
2   further associated with at least one of: (i) tag translation, and (ii) content evaluation.

1           35. The method of claim 32, wherein the received pre-determined tag association  
2   comprises an adjusted tag association.

1           36. A method of facilitating access to documents, comprising:  
2           assigning a primary document tag to a document; and  
3           assigning a secondary document tag to a document.

1           37. A method of facilitating access to documents, comprising:  
2           assigning a first document tag to a document; and  
3           automatically assigning a second document tag to the document based on the first  
4   document tag.